

Fulton Lewis, Jr.

## The Washington Report



WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 -- The heretofore unidentified "top-ranking Communist" who swapped letters with Lee Harvey Oswald is a veteran revolutionary once convicted of teaching the violent overthrow of the U.S. government.

He is Arnold Samuel Johnson, who, it can be revealed on excellent authority, wrote Oswald from Communist Party headquarters in New York.

Johnson urged Oswald to "keep in touch" as he moved back and forth from Dallas

to New Orleans. While the Johnson letters indicate Oswald was not under Communist discipline, they do show him to be a dedicated Marxist. Johnson was indicted in 1951, and convicted in 1953, of violating the Smith Act. The prosecution showed that Johnson was loyal to a foreign power and that he had taught the violent overthrow of the federal government. He served three years in prison, getting out in 1957.

Johnson also wrote to the Communist Party's legislative director, a Communist member of Congress. When asked if Johnson could be found, Johnson's spokesman, George W. Moore, an attorney, said Monday that Johnson was "unavailable for any comment."

It was not the same day that Johnson has this to say. On May 1, 1963, he, a thin-haired, 40-year-old office worker scheduled to appear on a New York television show. The program host, Barry Gray, had arranged to have Herb Romerstein, a star anti-Communist debater with the party spokesman, Johnson stalked off the program when told he would share the mike w Romerstein, a former Communist who serves now as an expert consultant to various government security agencies.

**NOTE:** Another Oswald pen pal was Vincent Theodore Lee, head of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Lee first denied any knowledge of Oswald, who was arrested once for passing out Fair Play leaflets in New Orleans.

Lee then discovered in his files six letters from Oswald, and turned them over to the FBI. Meanwhile, federal authorities had uncovered letters from Lee among Oswald's effects. The letters carried secret code setting up secret Fidel Castro chapters. Lee has denied being himself a Communist or an ideologue before joining the Internal Security Agency. Lee is the FBI's best evidence that Oswald is guilty in refusing to answer questions. He claimed ignorance on Communism, his leadership and on Cuban assistance to his "independent" group.

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### KEY TO SECRETIVE



All the boys got a shot at many deer, but the only one to prove himself a marksman was David Hopkins who got a good size buck.